

Message Text

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TAGS: SREF, ICEM, AO, PO
SUBJECT: ICEM REPATRIATIONS FROM PORTUGAL TO ANGOLA

REF: GENEVA 10623

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL MISSION HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING
COMMUNICATION FROM ICEM DIRECTOR, JOHN THOMAS: QUOTE
I WISH TO REFER TO OUR CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSIONS
CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A GROUP OF PERSONS
WHO, HAVING HAD TO LEAVE ANGOLA, ARE NOW ABLE AND WISH
TO RETURN. REGRETTABLY, THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL REMAINS VERY CRITICAL AND THERE IS
CONTINUED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONGST THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED FROM AFRICA. PORTUGAL HAS EXPENDED
LARGE SUMS FOR ASSISTANCE TO THESE PEOPLE, BUT AVAILABLE
FUNDS ARE DECREASING RAPIDLY.

EMIGRATION ON A MAJOR SCALE WOULD THEREFORE AID THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERABLY, ESPECIALLY WITH RE-
GARD TO THE MORE THAN 15,000 PERSONS STILL LIVING IN
GOVERNMENT CAMPS. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO THE CONTINUED
RECESSION IN COUNTRIES WHICH NORMALLY RECEIVE NATIONAL
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MIGRANTS, OUTLETS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE DEMAND.
IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED VERY
HARD TO PERSUADE THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES TO READMIT THOSE
PEOPLE WHO WISH TO RETURN. NOT ONLY WOULD SUCH A MOVE-
MENT BE OF HELP TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES BUT WOULD ALSO
CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS
WITH WHICH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS FACED.

IT IS PRESENTLY ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 4, AND 5,000 PEOPLE WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO RESETTLE IN ANGOLA, AND OF THESE 2, TO 3,000 WILL BE DEPARTING WITHIN THIS YEAR, PROVIDING THE NECESSARY FUNDS CAN BE FOUND. A NUMBER OF THESE PERSONS WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR A PORTUGUESE PASSPORT, BUT ARE LIKELY TO BE ENTITLED TO THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE UNHCR. HOWEVER, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 40 TO 50 PERCENT WILL NOT FALL WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE UNHCR.

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICEM'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO APPEAL TO SEVERAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR FUNDS FOR THESE MOVEMENTS, AND I SHOULD LIKE ONCE MORE TO ASK WASHINGTON TO RECONSIDER USING FOR THIS PURPOSE PART OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UNITED STATES FOR ICEM'S PROGRAMMES IN PORTUGAL. UNQUOTE

2. COUNTRIES REFERRED TO IN LAST PARAGRAPH OF THOMAS LETTER ARE BELGIUM, DENMARK, NORWAY AND THE NETHERLANDS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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